

# The City of Marion, South Carolina

## SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for  
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 6, Issue 9

February 2017

### 2017 General Francis Marion Celebration



Each year friends and supporters, local businesses and individuals in and around Marion County, come together to present several events in remembrance of Revolutionary War General Francis Marion, the *Swamp Fox*, for whom the City of Marion is named .

The last weekend in February is set aside to offer other activities that bring families and friends together in our historic city. The 6th annual Historic Marion RunFest brings runners not only from the Marion area, but from numerous cities in North and South Carolina, as well. The 7th Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook off showcases our culinary talents. This year's activities will be February 25, 2017 and we encourage you to join us for this year's festivities.

The RunFest will again have 5k and 10k races through our Historic District and numerous residential areas.

Please register for the RunFest online at [www.rmssports.com/run.html](http://www.rmssports.com/run.html) or pickup your application at City Hall.

**After the awards ceremonies head over to the Public Square on Main Street for the 8th Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off!**

You will get to taste some of the best chili ever! Wanna try your hand at cooking? Get in on the action and call Al Blake at 843-423-9918 and get your name *in the pot!* **As designated host of the Chili Cook-Off, HMRA will also be holding A CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT!** Please call Al Blake at 423-9918 for details.

### Filing of candidates closes at noon of February 10

The City of Marion General Election is Tuesday, April 11, 2017 for Mayor and City Council Districts 3, 5 and 6. This year, the state's Voter ID law, requiring voters to have an identification card with a photograph of the voter on it, is in effect. Filing for those people interested in being candidates in the upcoming elections opened on January 12<sup>th</sup> and closes on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at noon. March 11<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for people to be registered to vote in the April 11<sup>th</sup> election. To get registered to vote or to find out more about having a proper ID at the polling precincts and to see where you will need to vote go to the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission located at 2523 E. Hwy 76 or call Teresa Moody at 423-8268. Candidates should remember that political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including right of ways. Signs can be claimed by candidates at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street.

### What Black History Month Means to Me

In the midst of the many things going on in our schools and community helping to remind us to take note on our Black History, below are some articles written by 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Marion Intermediate School and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Johnakin Elementary School titled What Black History Means to Me!

Black History tome means learning about famous African Americans from the past and present. It means learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. marching so that all people could be treated fairly. It means learning about George Washington Carver and the uses for peanuts. It means learning about who made the traffic light and ironing board. Black History is Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Finally, it means you can be anything you want to be with hard work. President Obama worked hard to be president and is part of Black History.

*Sincerely*

*Taylor Richardson*

*4<sup>th</sup> Grader - Marion Intermediate School*

Over all history is very important but what stands out the most is black history. Black history is so important that it was given its own month. As black youth and I reflect back as a black race we have come a long way. My black ancestors were beaten, thrown into prison and killed that I may live a life or freedom. In history I read black prayed and marched to bring about a great change.

In 1619 the first African Slaves were brought to America in Jamestown, Virginia. Our history took a turn when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation proclamation. Black history has a trial of heroes. Martin Luther Ling blazes the way with his many speeches, non-violent marches and his eagerness that young people have a good education. Because of that, I have a right to sit in restaurant, use the same bathroom as white people.

In black history, many activist groups were found. The Black Panthers, NAACO and Black Lives Matter. I believe every black person that fought for their actions would impact my life now in 2017. I say thank you Martin Luther King for marching. Thank you Rosa Parks for not getting up. Thank you President Obama for bringing a great change to our nation.

When I read now so many black people suffered and so paid with their lives. Black History Month should be honored because of the accomplishments and contributions of the black race. I pray that we shall always remember the legacy of many of our African American leaders that paved the way for us so that we can be free.

*Kadra Sanders*

*8<sup>th</sup> Grader - Johnakin Middle School*

This is what Black History means to me. To me Black History means freedom. To me Rosa Parks means freedom. She displayed freedom because all she wanted to do was be free so others can be free.

Martin Luther King Jr. means leadership. He was a leader because he was a father, preacher and teacher.

Jackie Robinson means dedication. He was dedicated because he proved that he deserved to be at the baseball field like everyone else.

Roberto Clemente means strength. Roberto showed strength because no matter what the reporter wrote he kept playing baseball.

Freedom, leadership, dedication and strength. That's what Black History means to me. To me it was a hero.

*Sincerely*

*Selena Shelley*

*4<sup>th</sup> Grader - Marion Intermediate School*

Black history means a lot to me. It means a lot to me because if Rosa Parks didn't refuse to give up her seat on the bus and the rest of the people ignored that people; wouldn't be able to sit where they wanted to. What I'm trying to say is that without black history there would most likely still be segregation. Some black history built up other confidence. For example, Jackie Robinson inspired many all over the country to not give up on their dreams just like he didn't give up on his dream of becoming a major league baseball (MLB) player. In conclusion black history means a lot to me because it changed the way people live.

*Sincerely*

*Johnna Prince Cox*

*4<sup>th</sup> Grader - Marion Intermediate School*

Black History Month is a time to honor, celebrate and show-case Black excellence. It's the 28.... (although there should be more) days a year that the accomplishments of Black Americans are at the forefront. Black Americans month is a time of reflection. It's the chance to educate younger black and generations of their heritage. Black History month inspires us to want to do great things.

*Sincerely*

*Re'asia Page, Cortrell Miller and Mr. Smalls*

*4<sup>th</sup> Grader - Marion Intermediate School*

*Continue on page 2.....*

## Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Eileen Powell



Approximately 200 men, women and children gathered in the spirit of peace and brotherhood at the First United Methodist Church parking lot on Godbold Street in Marion to participate in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Live Gospel Music broadcast from the back of a flatbed truck provided by Reverend Larry Williams and the Tabernacle of God Ministries



was a very welcome addition to the march this year. The distance traveled seemed shorter and steps were livelier in keeping with the music.

Added to the tradition of honoring the late civil rights leader this year was a heightened spirit of giving resulting in a great benefit to the victims of Hurricane Matthew. At the service following the march donations were collected and presented to the Marion County Recovery Effort. An offered were collected in the amount of \$2,486.89 with several additional pledges made. Marion County Healthcare Foundation will match the donations.

As in years past the MLK March ended at the Door of Hope Christian Church where Bishop Michael Blue greeted those in attendance for the traditional service that followed. Youth Pastor Adam Works of the Marion Baptist Church spoke at the service about the uniqueness of Dr. King and his hope that all of us will eventually come together as one in spirit and prayer as intended by God. Bishop Blue also spoke of the miracle of the fallen religious leader's life, his accomplishments and the importance of keeping Dr. King's spirit alive in the days to come.



Many groups participated this year including members of the clergy and state and county officials to include mayors of our neighboring cities. Al Jenkins came as Senator Tim Scott's representative to offer encouragement to Marion in support of our tradition. Phillip Gaillard also added words of inspiration on behalf of Congressman Tom Rice.

Elista Smith, Vice-chairperson of the Marion County Council addressed the gathering as did Dr. Kandace Bethea, Superintendent, of the Marion County School District. Other distinguished guests recognized were members of law enforcement, school board members, Mullins Chamber of Commerce officials and honored sororities.

There are many groups and individuals deserving of thanks for their help in making this year's MLK celebration a success. The list certainly includes the police department, the rescue unit and many other city officials not previously mentioned. Mayor Bobby L. Davis deserves recognition for his dedication to this event, as well as to the on-going cause of unity in Marion.

The co-chairs of the Diversity Committee, Dr. Willena Rembert and Mrs. Eileen Powell, encourage all who are interested in furthering the cause of brotherhood in Marion to join an on-going effort to find ways to truly embrace the diversity within our community. We welcome those who wish to become members of the Diversity Committee to bring your energies and your ideas to meet the challenge of improving our town and its economy through greater harmony. Please plan to join the dialogue.

**What Black History means to me** is that, it's the time for black people to go out in the world and show that they are equal. It is so important it has its own month to be celebrated. This is the time to enjoy the freedom black people have now. It is celebrated to also thank everyone who fought for black people's freedom. Black History is the reason everyone is seen as equals. Without Black History, the world would be populated with slaves and places would be segregated.

Black History is a time we can be reminded what African Americans did for us. There were bathrooms and restaurants that only certain colors could go in and in the early 1600s slavery was going on and many black people suffered. Many of our ancestors were either slaves or slave-owners. Slaves were beaten, killed and injured while working for their owners. Some Black people, ran away from their owners and if they returned they would be punished. Many people played different roles in Black History including: Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges and Martin Luther King Jr.

Rosa Parks was a hard worker, when places where harsh to black people and segregated. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white man and went to prison due to that being against the law. Martin Luther King Jr. helped Rosa Parks get out of prison and stated a protest against giving up seats. Martin Luther King Jr. made many speeches and was a believer in freedom. He also led many marches and he wanted all kids to have good education. Ruby Bridges was the first black girl to go to an all-white school. She was bullied and white children's mothers took them out of school because she was in that school. This I why Black History is an important part of black people's lives.

**Tyeasha Crawford**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grader – Johnakin Middle School

To me, **Black History** is a time when all African Americans receive all of the attention that they deserve from past and present achievements. Black History Month is a month to honor the deeds done by African Americans who have helped to change history. Black History month is also a time of being thankful for the African American men and women who've sacrificed their lives to stand up and fight for what they believe in. Some of the African Americans that we honor during the time of Black History Month are Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali and many other African Americans that made history. Black History means to me that we need to honor these African Americans because they helped bring American to where it is today. The African Americans that I honor most during Black History Month is Harriet Tubman. Harriet Tubman was sold into slavery at a young age and was an abused slave. During Harriet Tubman's life time, she was a conductor of the Underground Railroad and freed thousands of slaves. Including her parents. Harriet Tubman risked her own life in order to save others. Harriet Tubman, I feel, is an African American hero.

Black History month grew out of Negro History Week. Ever since 1976 every U.S. President has officially assigned the month of February to be Black History Month. It's not only the U.S. that has Black History Month other countries such as Canada and the UK have a month devoted for Black History month. The person who began Black History Month was Carter G. Woodson. He created Negro History week in 1926, but in 1976 it became Black History Month. Originally, Negro Week was the second week in February. According to Google.com, Americans celebrate Black History Month because it is a time for appreciation of African Americans throughout time.

In conclusion, Black History Month is a time I feel everyone should celebrate, no matter what race, ethnicity or background that you have. Black History Month is a time of honor, sacrifice and celebratory praise. I'm thankful for the African Americans that have helped create American like it today. I'm also thankful that because of the African Americans that sacrificed their lives that we don't have to go to segregated schools, work in different buildings, and we are allowed to socialize with whomever we want. That is what Black History Month means to me.

**Mallory Chapman**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grader – Johnakin Middle School

### Brown is city's employee of the Month

Pansy Brown was selected as the December 2016 Employee of the Month. Pansy has been employed with the City of Marion Recreation Department since October 2015. As the administrative assistant at Shannon Wilkerson Gym, Pansy is responsible for overseeing registration of all sports programs. She also coordinates Senior Bingo, and helps run our concession stands. Additionally, Pansy assists Recreation Director Ann Jackson and Athletic Director Frank Page with a number of administrative duties.



Pansy has a strong work ethic and a positive attitude towards her job responsibilities. The Mayor and Council recognized Pansy for her service and dedication to the City of Marion at the January 10<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.

### Movie Showing

**Saturday, February 4, 2017 • 3:00 - 5:00 pm | Marion Opera House, 100 NE Court Street, Marion SC**  
Enjoy an afternoon movie in Marion with this faith-based drama about prayer in people's lives • **Free admission.**



### Marion Chamber Book Project

The Marion Chamber of Commerce will be continuing their Book Project this year which is to give all Marion County 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and Pee Dee Academy a copy of "Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox" by Kate Salley Palmer for their personal library. The Chamber is proud of this project to expand our student's knowledge and the history of General Francis Marion.

Over the last five years we have placed over 2000 books in the hands of every third grader in Marion County. We estimate the number of third graders for this school year will be approximately the same. A contribution of \$100 will help us place 10 books or any amount you feel you could give. The books will be delivered in February and we will present the books to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students the first week of March. This year the Chamber will distribute 411 books. A book plate inside each book will identify the sponsors of this project. We hope that you will consider being a part of this program. Your support and assistance will be appreciated. For important on how to donation please contact Cindy Rogers at the Marion Chamber of Commerce, 843-423-3561.

### JEBB MAC BAND

Save the date for Jebb Mac Band at the Main Street Common Market. Business as Unusual. February 25, 2017. For more information visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org).



## Good Morning...Taylor's Barber Shop

Submitted by Kathy Stedman for HMRA

Little did Preacher Thomas Taylor know that the barber shop he opened in Marion, at the old Jenkins Hotel in 1914, would still be standing and in operation in 2017. Now an historical landmark, Taylor's Barber shop still proudly displays the original Barber's Pole, as well as boasting the original interior woodwork and tile flooring.

Current owner and barber, Mr. Mack McClellan, has been a barber for 46 years and has worked at Taylor's Barber Shop since 1970. He partnered with Mr. Henry Coleman, now deceased, to purchase the business in 1977. Talking with "Mr. Mack" is akin to having an oral history lesson on not only the business itself, but also the growth of the Marion Community and the people and happenings which have influenced it over time. According to Mr. Mack, Taylor's Barber Shop was built as a first class operation, replete with 2 bathrooms, a walk-in shower, and a ball/claw bathtub. In the olden days, men came in for a bath and a shave, and to perform their general toiletry. As for that barber's pole, it symbolized a barber trained and certified to perform minor surgical procedures and tooth extractions.

Mr. Mack states that styles and practices certainly have changed- gone are the crew cuts and flat top haircuts. Barbers are trained and certified and must pass State Board requirements. The old razors have been replaced with disposable razor blades for purposes of hygiene. Old hand held razor clippers have been replaced with electric clippers with differently sized guards for specific cut styles. Mr. Mack proudly pulled out his suitcase with his original implements used while he was in training with Kenneth Shuler 46 years ago. They included 2 types of sheers, a brush, an outliner and his hand held clippers. Now everything is electric, or disposable, except for the hairbrushes.



Barbershop services include haircut or trim, shampoo and styling, beard trim, shave, and yes, even a mud pack facial. Mr. Mack also sells products for hair, scalp, and skin. Mr. Mack can and does cut men and women's hair, and loves to give children their "first official haircut" complete with signed and dated certificate. His only regret is that way back when he started cutting children's hair, he did not get pictures and start a photo gallery so that as each new generation of a family comes in for their first haircut, they could see the family members who had come in before them.

Appointments are not necessary, but phone 843 423-2536, if you feel you need one, or come by Tuesday- Saturday from 7: 00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. for a little bit of history and some very special treatment from "Mr. Mack".



### NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Bobby L. Davis**, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Lakesha Shannon** City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Ficik**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Ann Jackson**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith**, Captain, (843) 423-8616
- Cindy Barr**, Captain, (843) 423-8616
- Tony Flowers**, Investigator, (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Chris McKenzie**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 464-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

### The City of Marion Weight Loss Challenge

The City of Marion has begun a weight loss challenge for its employees. This competition is an individually sponsored program. Participation is completely voluntary. The purpose is to provide a fun and friendly competition that will:

- Promote healthier eating,
- Encourage physical activity, and
- Create a healthy, engaged, and supportive work environment.

The 15 week program will begin on January 9th and end in April.

"Winners" will be determined by percentage of total weight loss. Good luck to all our participants.

.....**GOING ON IN MARION**.....



Mark your calendar  
Marion with this faith-based drama about prayer in people's lives.  
**FREE ADMISSION.**

**February 1st**  
Rise and Shine: **TBA**

**February 4th**  
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **Marion Opera House**, 100 NE Court, Marion SC. Enjoy an afternoon movie in

**February 14th**  
6:30 p.m. **City Council Meeting**, Council Chambers

**February 21st**  
6:00 p.m. **Marion Hike-Bike Trail Master Plan Public Vision Session**. City Hall. For more information contact Vickie Nichols @vnichols@marionsc.gov.

**February 22nd**  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Trinity Behavioral Care – **T.A.L.K. Talking And Listening to our Kids**. Marion County Drugs and Alcohol Awareness and Education Forum. Marion Opera House. 100 NE Court Street, Marion SC.

**February 23rd**  
6:00 p.m. **Marion Hike-Bike Trail Master Plan Unveiling**. City Hall. For more information contact Vickie Nichols @vnichols@marionsc.gov.

**February 25th**  
9:00 a.m. **General Francis Marion Day Celebrations**. The 7th Annual Historic Marion Runfest, (Marion Fire Department) 100 W. Bond St, Marion. Contact Pam Jones, 843-423-5961. 12:00 p.m. The 8th Annual **Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off**, contact Al Blake at 843.423-9918 or visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org) for details. HMRA will host a **Cornhole Tournament** in conjunction with the celebrations. For details contact Al Blake at (843) 423-9918, [hmra@theswampfox.org](mailto:hmra@theswampfox.org) or visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org).

**February 25th**  
12:00 p.m. – until. Main Street Commons – **Chili-Cook Off**. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$600.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> 400.00, People's Choice \$300.00 and Best Theme Tent \$50.00. For details contact Al Blake at (843) 423-9918, [hmra@theswampfox.org](mailto:hmra@theswampfox.org) or visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org).

**February 25th**  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Main Street Commons – **CornHole Tournament**. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$300.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> 200.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100.00. For details contact Al Blake at (843) 423-9918, [hmra@theswampfox.org](mailto:hmra@theswampfox.org) or visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org).

**February 25th**  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Main Street Commons – **JEBB MAC BAND**. Business as Unusual. For details contact Al Blake at (843) 423-9918, [hmra@theswampfox.org](mailto:hmra@theswampfox.org) or visit [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org).

**February 27th**  
**1:00 p.m. Francis Marion Memorial Day Wreath-laying**, General Francis Marion statue on Main Street. Inclement weather would move this into the C.D. Joyner Arts Center on Elizabeth Street.



**Relay for Life**

We are gearing up for the 2017 relay for life. Special events and fundraising are on the way. We will be having our annual Womanless Beauty Pageant and Survivor Pageant on

February 18th. Any man who would like to be in the Womanless pageant and any Cancer Survivor who would like to be in the survivor pageant. Please contact Wanda Legett for more information. Both of these pageants are fundraisers for Marion County Relay for Life. Wanda Legett contact info (843) 433-5305

Our next RFL team meeting will be February 21st at Carolinas Hospital in Marion, classroom A at 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to have A Track sign for your business or individual or if you would like to be a sponsor please contact Debbie or Chinel the numbers are below.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the planning of our Relay events and to help the day of Relay. Please contact Debbie Erwin 843-260-4483 or Chinel Boateng (843) 245-8538.

**A TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

“We Are Our Neighbors’ Keepers“  
Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

We all know that the world is not stagnant. Things are always changing. Some change is good and brings about positive results. But not all change is good. Today, as I write this, we are thirteen days in to the New Year, and A-Team has been hit hard by change. First, our long time leader and co-founder, Ervin Woodberry, moved out of our neighborhood. While he has promised to stay involved, he has stepped away from a leadership role. He leaves behind some mighty big shoes to fill. Then on January 10<sup>th</sup>, we lost our friend and neighbor, “T” Edwards. “T” had been ill for quite a while, but remained an active member of A-Team as well as the CERT Team. In 2014, he made his famous chicken bog for our first Police Appreciation Lunch and Car Wash. In 2015, he was so inspired by the turnout for our first National Night Out, he managed to join us on our walk in spite of his health and the heat. On a personal note, he was always a champion and supporter of my efforts to better our neighborhood and make it safer. A-Team and the CERT Team have lost a valued member and friend. Jane, Trey, Perry and the grandchildren have lost their patriarch. “T’s” other family The Jones, including best friend, Jimmy, have lost another brother and son. A-Team is going to miss our friend and I will miss his voice of reason and support. Because we truly are the group that believes “WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS” KEEPERS”, we will watch over the ones “T” left behind. Our next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM in the Firehouse on E Bond St. For more information call 843-433-0941.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MARION RAIL-TRAIL**  
**MASTER PLAN MEETINGS**  
**FEBRUARY 21 – 23**

*Share your ideas for walking and expanding the rail-trail in Marion!*

Public Visioning Session  
Tuesday, February 21st • 6:00 PM • City Hall

Master Plan Unveiling  
Thursday, February 23rd • 6:00 PM • City Hall



For a complete schedule please visit the city website: [www.marionsc.gov](http://www.marionsc.gov) or contact Vickie Nichols: [VNichols@marionsc.gov](mailto:VNichols@marionsc.gov) • 843.423.5961

**Spring Sports sign ups**

Registration has begun at the Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium for 2017 for baseball, softball, t-ball and coach pitch thru Friday February 28th. Registration will be held at Shannon Wilkerson Gym from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ages are 4-18 years old.